



REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Curtis B. Hamre (Reg. No. 29,165), at (612) 612.336.4722.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

RECEIVED  
DEC 12 2000  
TC 1700

Dated: August 15, 2000

By Curtis B. Hamre

Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH/rw

RECEIVED  
NOV 14 2000  
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM